GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department sad news, p.4

VOL. 89, No. 36 | 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 | JULY 30, 2026

Former Mayor Gil Weidenfeld's Reflections on Accomplishments

by Sandra Lange

PHOTO COURTESY NEWS REVIEW ARCHIVES

Mayor Gil Weidenfeld in 1987

This is Part 2 in a series of remembrances of former Mayor Gil Weidenfeld, who died on July 4 at the age of 93. The following article, by Sandra Lange which first appeared in the News Review on February 10, 1994, reflects on his years on the city council. Omitted is a section devoted to his thoughts of running for the County Council. He did not serve on that council.

Gil Weidenfeld, private citizen, is a little lost these days. After 22 years on the Greenbelt City Council, 14 of them as mayor, he misses the meetings he attended at least three nights a week, the urgent telephone calls from citizens, the strategy sessions where he was a key player. He is proud of his role in purchasing parkland, building a new school and constructing an indoor swimming pool.

Looking back on his political life, he smiles at the parochial interests that caused him to first run for the city council in September 1971. "I wanted a community center for Springhill Lake," he says. "I lived there at the time, and there were no recreation facilities. Plus, there was a major highway dividing the city that made it difficult for Springhill Lake residents to use the recreation facilities in the core of Greenbelt."

As he and others elected from Springhill Lake achieved their goal, Weidenfeld found that he enjoyed being on the city council. He also developed a broader range of interests. He supported the development of senior citizen housing, and views the construction of Green Ridge House as

See **MAYOR**, page 9

GHI Members Authorize Possible Purchase of 121 Centerway Building

by Pat Scully

Following a marathon special meeting on Thursday evening, July 23, an unprecedented number of members of the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) housing cooperative voted and, by a nearly 4 to 1 margin – 580 yes votes to 156 no votes – gave the GHI Board the authority to investigate and proceed with the purchase of 121 Centerway. The building, an anchor of Roosevelt Center, hosts the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy and the Greenbelt Arts Center, with a lower-level space currently vacant.

The vote means that the purchase can go forward if certain financial, property condition and other due diligence contingencies are met to the board's satisfaction.

The Proposed Purchase

The current building owner Glen Burnie Partners has agreed to the sale of the building for $3.5 million. An appraisal commissioned by the National Cooperative Bank gave the property a current market value of $3.8 million. The basic structure of the deal would be a downpayment of about $875,000 and a 30-year mortgage for the rest, with the National Cooperative Bank as the likely lender. Rent paid by the tenants would cover the mortgage payments.

PHOTO BY TOM JONES

A packed house of GHI members questioned the Property Purchase Task Force at a special meeting on Thursday, July 23.

The subject of the purchase was previously discussed with members at both a GHI Town Hall on April 9 and at the GHI Annual Meeting on May 14 (see April 16, 2026 and May 21, 2026 News Review issues.) The Co-op

See **GHI**, page 8

For Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen, Kindness is a Verb

by Farinaz Firouzi

What makes Greenbelt outstanding? The resident who was granted the city's Outstanding Citizen award at last year's Greenbelt Labor Day Festival might say, "kindness."

Whether through litter cleanup, literacy programs, food and essentials distribution, neighborhood outreach or other initiatives that help families in need and bring people together, Robert Goldberg-Strassler sees every act of service as an expression of kindness and care for others. Picking up litter isn't just for the environment, he says. It's showing you care about the people who live there. And that kindness can spread through taking the initiative, accompanying others in their efforts and inviting them to join you. "When our kids and grandkids saw us picking up trash, they started doing it too," he explained. As more people get involved, whether to volunteer or to receive help, the circle of support and impact grows.

RUAK Beginnings

In 2017 Goldberg-Strassler started Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). "It's not even a 501(c)(3)," he says. "It's a movement." One of RUAK's first initiatives was to encourage residents to get outside for a walk called HUG (Help Unite Greenbelt With A Little Kindness).

PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS

Robert Goldberg-Strassler, Outstanding Citizen for 2025, speaks after receiving the award.

Each year, HUG walkers cross the boundaries that divide Greenbelt, get to know each other and learn new things to love about the city they call home. RUAK's website features things to love about Greenbelt, some of them quite unexpected. Another initiative has been inviting people to pick up trash on their walk or jog. Called "plogging," the idea has spread across the world but had not yet caught on in Greenbelt.

Inviting people to walk together or "plog" may not be new, but putting an article in the News Review to invite anyone who wants

See **OUTSTANDING**, page 7

LAST CHANCE
To nominate your candidate for Outstanding Citizen 2026 before Saturday, August 1 deadline. See form on page 7.

What Goes On

Monday, August 3
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Recognition Group Policy Review, Municipal Building
Wednesday, August 5
No Council Meeting

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

County Exec to Select Briggs' Replacement; Questions Continue

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The process to replace outgoing District 2 Board of Education member Jonathan Briggs, whose date of resignation is still unclear, is being run by the office of the county executive, not the county council. This is contrary to information the Greenbelt News Review received in writing last week from the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education office. One of the candidates on the November ballot for the seat has applied. The other candidate has not.

Appointment Process

On July 20, the News Review was informed in writing by two members of the PGCPS Board of Education Office, including the director, that the application process for the vacancy was being managed by the county council. That information is incorrect. PGCPS did not respond to a

See **BRIGGS**, page 8

PHOTO COURTESY SNYDERS ATTRACTIONS

The Ferris wheel operated by Snyder's Attractions, which will be the carnival operator for this year's Labor Day Festival. See page 7 for details about a new online ticketing system.

Letters to the Editor

Greenbelt Appreciation

I'd like to publicly thank the compassionate parishioners of the Catholic Community of Greenbelt, unflappable staff at the Community Center and skilled and caring EMS techs from the Prince George's County Fire Department who took care of me when I was ill on a recent Sunday morning.

We've all heard that Greenbelt is great, but what I appreciated most is that Greenbelters are kind. Thank you all.

Patrice Pascual

County Data Center, Development Concerns

Prince George's County is about to allow data centers despite the two-year moratorium they voted in on July 13. Council Member Wanika Fisher's drafted bill to allow these data centers on agricultural land was heard on July 23 by the M-NCPPC Planning Board. Despite opposition by their own Planning Board staff and all public comments, except for one electrical union worker, the Board chose to take no action. The bill will now go to the County Council.

On July 30, the Planning Board will hear LDR-153-2026 to streamline site plan review, which will make projects easier to move forward without public comment. This would fast-track and undermine the public's right to know and to submit informed comments. It undermines agencies' ability to analyze projects and develop informed comments and recommendations. It undermines informed decision making. Further, Council Member Shayla Adams-Stafford is drafting comprehensive legislation that will allow the county to end the moratorium.

Kathy Bartolomeo

Correction

In our summary history of the vendors at the New Deal Café, printed in the January 29 and July 16 issues, we should have noted that the tenure of DC Vegan's contract with the Café ended in November 2020, not July 2021.

From December 2020 to July 2021, the Café was without regular food service while it searched for a new vendor during the pandemic.

Seven Wonders
of Greenbelt
(ACCORDING TO PETE)
#1 World Famous Utility Pole(s)
Either celebrity pole provides visitors a powerful experience.

- Cartoon by Pete Reppert

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Spider-Man: Brand New Day

It's a brand-new day for Peter Parker. Fighting crime full-time as Spider-Man in a world that doesn't remember him — and the pressure of seeing his old friends move on without him — sparks a change in Peter he may not have the power to control. But that transformation might also be the only thing that can stop a shocking new threat to the city and those he loves — a powerful villain no one can even see. The world may have forgotten Peter Parker, but he hasn't forgotten it.

The Odyssey

From director Christopher Nolan comes the story of Odysseus, king of Ithaca, who embarks on a perilous journey to return home after the Trojan War. Starring Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson and Lupita Nyong'o.

The Wiz

When Harlem schoolteacher Dorothy tries to save her dog from a storm, she's miraculously whisked away to an urban fantasy land called Oz. After accidentally killing the Wicked Witch of the East upon her arrival, Dorothy is told about the Wiz, a wizard who can help her get back to Manhattan. As Dorothy goes in search of the Wiz, she's joined by the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion.

School of Rock

Overly enthusiastic guitarist Dewey Finn (Jack Black) gets thrown out of his bar band and finds himself in desperate need of work. Posing as a substitute music teacher at an elite private elementary school, he exposes his students to the hard rock gods he idolizes and emulates — much to the consternation of the uptight principal (Joan Cusack). As he gets his privileged and precocious charges in touch with their inner rock 'n' roll animals, he imagines redemption at a local Battle of the Bands.

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM:
general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JULY 31st - AUGUST 6th

Spider-Man: Brand New Day
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2026)
(145 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 4:40 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 4:50 PM, 8:15 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM (OC), 8:15 PM
Mon. 4:40 PM, 8:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

The Odyssey (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (172 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 12:45 PM
Tues. 3:15 PM
Thurs. 8:10 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 4:10 PM, 7:40 PM
Sat. 4:20 PM, 7:55 PM
Sun. 4:00 PM (OC), 7:45 PM
Mon. 3:25 PM, 7:20 PM
Tues. 7:20 PM
Wed. 6:15 PM
Thurs. 6:30 PM

The Wiz
(CC) (DVS) (1978) (134 mins)
In partnership with
The Space for Greenbelt's
Emerald City Pride
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:00 PM

School of Rock (PG-13) (CC)
(DVS) (2003) (108 mins)
School's Out! - FREE!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM

Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Greenbelt News Review

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15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985
Mary Lou Williamson, Editor
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Tuesday, August 4, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16645485.

Wednesday, August 5, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16486794.

Thursday, August 6, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2, Register at pgcmls.info/event/16486829.

Ride and Read

Thursday, August 6, 11 a.m., ages 16+ (adult). Get moving and have fun at the Library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16519507.

English, Spanish Story Time, SHL Rec Center

PHOTO BY ROBERT GOLDBERG-STRASSLER

At the July bilingual storytime at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 54 children and their parents or caretakers were entertained.

On Friday, August 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 14 de agosto a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en ingles y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Camp Encore Free Theater goes Greek

Greenbelt Recreation's Camp Encore invites community members to attend free performances of Patroklos and Achilles next week. In Homer's Illiad, the titular heroes, who were inseparable in life, are doomed to spend the afterlife apart. In this Camp Encore original, written by camp directors Creedence Jackson and Zoe Larsen, Patroklos and Achilles embark on new adventures in the Underworld, as they seek to break the curse and reunite. The first show is on Wednesday, August 5 at 1 p.m. and the second show is on Thursday, August 6 at 7 p.m. The performance venue is the Greenbelt Arts Center. For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-397-2208. Tickets will be available starting July 29. For information about more Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Make Sock Monkeys

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests to a series of free Artful Afternoon workshops where participants can make their own unique sock monkey! All materials are provided, but guests are welcome to bring their own socks, buttons, and other decorations. The activity will be offered on Sunday, August 2 from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, and on Sunday, August 9 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

This activity is recommended for adults and for family members working collaboratively. Guests who have the ability to use scissors and to sew with an oversized, blunt craft needle will be doing most of the work. Projects may not all be completed during the workshop times listed above, but guests will be equipped to finish at home as needed.

Seating is limited and advanced signup is recommended. Sign up at https://sugeni.us/eyWh. Walk-ins will be welcome as space and supplies permit. For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Play Mahjongg Sat. Afternoons

Familiar with American mahjongg? Have a 2026 card? Come play on Saturday afternoons starting at 2:15 p.m. in Room 109 of the Community Center. While many games can be played in the Active Aging Game Room at that time, there usually is a table or two of mahjongg. Register in the Recreation Department office. The next two class sessions will be held during the fall and winter terms. Check the catalog for more information.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Art Reception At New Deal Café

PHOTO BY SARA TAYLOR

Self Portrait by Sara Taylor

Friends of the New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA) invites the public to a free reception celebrating the artist Sara Taylor/bog woman paints. Taylor's exhibit, loose stones: museum of me, is currently being shown at the New Deal Café. It's a journey of Taylor's creative recovery rooted in past crossroads and failures exploring various aspects of creativity and self. The pieces are diverse, and some are interactive.

The reception, which takes place at the New Deal Café on Sunday, August 2, from 1 to 3 p.m., welcomes participation and features live music, crafts, surrealist games and improvisation. Light refreshments will be served.

The exhibit will remain on display through Sunday, August 30.

Bibliophiles Meet August 12

The Bibliophiles of Greenbelt will meet at the New Deal Café on Wednesday, August 12 from 11 a.m. to noon. They meet on the second Wednesday of every month. The topic for this meeting will be The USA@250. This month the group will read and discuss The Living Declaration by Ted Widmer. Those unable to get a copy of Widmer's book can read one of many books and articles on the same topic. Choose one, then come and enrich the conversation. For more information, email Van Caldwell at wvcaldwell@gmail.com.

The SPACE Hosts Bonfire, The Wiz

The SPACE: Free Art For All invites the community to enjoy a weekend of connection, creativity and fun. On Saturday, August 1, community members are invited to gather for a bonfire from 8 p.m. until everyone leaves at Greenbelt Park (on Greenbelt Road). Guests can enjoy an evening around the fire with music, conversation, refreshments and community activities. For anyone wanting to camp out, the space is reserved all night.

The celebration continues on Sunday, August 2 at 1 p.m. with a special viewing of The Wiz at the Greenbelt Cinema. Costumes inspired by the film are strongly encouraged, and prizes will be awarded for standout looks.

Advance registration is encouraged. For RSVP information and additional event details, visit FreeArtForAll.org.

Special Concert For Art Show

The Greenbelt Concert Band's Clarinet Choir and Trombone Choir will present a free concert during Greenbelt Labor Day Weekend on Sunday, September 6 from 3 to 4 p.m. The performance will take place on the stage in the Community Center Gymnasium as part of the Greenbelt Labor Day Art Show festivities.

The chamber ensembles will present a lively, family-friendly program featuring patriotic favorites, ragtime, blues, jazz, Broadway hits and other popular musical selections.

Whether visiting the Art Show or simply looking for an enjoyable afternoon of live music, stop by and join in this special community performance. Admission is free and all are welcome.

For more information about this and other upcoming performances, visit greenbeltconcertband.org/performances.

No Hunger Vacation: No PORCH Vacation

When school lets out, so do the free and reduced-cost meals that thousands of children rely on each day. This summer, the strain on household budgets has been compounded by federal funding cuts and disruptions to food assistance programs. While demand for food rises, donations often slow as school food drives pause and community routines shift.

And yet, in the face of these challenges, the Greenbelt community continues to show up. This summer, food donations have remained strong. The community's generosity is helping ensure that our neighbors have access to the food and support they deserve.

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in the month of August as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Saturday, August 1 – by 11 a.m. at 23 and 24 Courts Ridge Road

Monday, August 3 – by 5 p.m. at 18 Court Ridge Road

Sunday, August 9 – by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway; by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members, including former Woodland Hills donors. Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on August 9 at spreadruak@gmail.com and he will come to your porch.

Saturday, August 15 – by 9 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, August 16 – by 4 p.m. for 33 Court Ridge Road, by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

Saturday, August 22 – by 10 a.m. for Mathew Street to Megan Lane including Brett Place

Sunday, August 23 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village, after 6 p.m. for 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road, 1 and 8 Courts Southway

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

NOTE: HOURS OF OPERATIONS WILL VARY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

TH 7/30	FRI 7/31	SAT 8/01	SUN 8/02
CAFE CLOSED; No music tonight	CAFE CLOSED; No music tonight	The Bachelor & The Bad Actress w/ Griefcat and MC Lacemaker 8 - 11pm	CAFE OPEN FOR ART RECEPTION ONLY. Artist: SARA TAYLOR, 1-3pm NO MUSIC TONIGHT

MON 8/03	TUES 8/04	WED 8/04	TH 8/06	New Deal Cafe
MONDAY MAUVENESS KARAOKE 6 - 9pm Take the stage and sing with a live band!	CAFE CLOSED; No music tonight	CAFE CLOSED; No music tonight	Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm Big, bodacious, boogie blues jam hosted by Wolf Crescenze	THE NDC BOARD APPRECIATES YOUR PATIENCE AS WE MAKE CHANGES TO OUR OPERATIONS.

*Join NDC! Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!

Obituaries

Elizabeth Wellborn

PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Elizabeth "Betty" Wellborn

Elizabeth (Betty) Wellborn of Greenbelt died on July 17, 2026. She was 95.

Born April 8, 1931 on her family's dairy farm, she was the daughter of the late Elizabeth Buchanan and David Burt James, and the wife of the late James R. Wellborn.

The first of eight children, she grew up on Boggs Road in Forest Hill, Md. Growing up during the Depression, she worked on the family farm and knew the value of hard work. She started driving the mule team when she was 9. After many years off the farm, she returned to farming in 1971 in Accident, Md.

Betty graduated from Bel Air High School in 1948 and went on to graduate from Salisbury State University in 1952, earning a degree in education. She also earned a master's in education in 1981. Betty last taught in Garrett County, Md., and often lamented how much she missed teaching.

She loved all children as her own and looked forward to seeing her great-grandchildren every Sunday. She also loved when the neighborhood children would stop by. She could easily be distracted while grocery shopping if there was a child in the store. She also enjoyed living near her grandchildren, who stopped by frequently.

She is survived by her daughter Katherine Wellborn (Chris Casey) of Greenbelt and her son David Wellborn of Lewes, Del. Her daughter Amy Wellborn died from leukemia in 2014. She is survived by her sister Anne Duncan of Charleston, S.C., brother Joe James of Baltimore and by her grandchildren: Kyle Yancey of Hyattsville; Alec Casey of Greenbelt; Caroline Casey of Greenbelt; Mark Wellborn of Austin, Texas; Emma Grier of Charlottesville, Va.; Wren Grier of Greenbelt and her son-in-law Rick Grier. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren Grayson and Miles Yancey of Hyattsville.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents and husband and by her brothers David James, Allen James, Kenny James and her sisters Nancy Munro and Janie Elliott.

In addition to a private service for the family, a memorial service will be held in her home for close friends. Donations in her honor can be made to the Keystone State Ride Corp. at 214 Lakeside Dr. in Lewes, Del., a nonprofit that raises funds for cancer research.

City Notes

Mayor Emmett Jordan, Economic Development Manager Jessica Mailander, Assistant City Manager Timothy George and Public Information and Communications Officer James Wisniewski attended the Blue Sunday restaurant opening. Constituent Services received 1,000 donated energy efficiency kits for distribution and the IT department created a SharePoint hub featuring city recreation resources. Code Enforcement inspected three shopping centers and 29 rentals, issuing nine permits.

Animal Shelter residents are four cats, eight kittens and a dog after one dog was adopted.

Ballfields/Parks installed engineered wood chips at the Gardenway playground and installed dog play equipment at the Animal Shelter. Streets cleared and stored items from the Armory and installed two cemetery headstones.

The Community Center hosted three summer camp performances, produced by Recreation and Arts with event furnishings installed by Public Works. Arts continued jurying for the Sparkle Mart.

Therapeutic Recreation offered seniors a Tech Café, Sip and Paint and a field trip to a Howard County event. The Museum taught around 90 summer campers about Revolutionary War tricorn hats.

CARES welcomed a new caseworker.

Fire Department Announces Death of Two GVFD Stalwarts

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

Greg Gigliotti

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

George P. Moore Jr.

On Friday, July 24 Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) – Company 35 suffered an unimaginable loss.

It is with profound sadness that GVFD announces the deaths of two of our own: President, Life Member and Past Deputy Chief Gregory V. Gigliotti and Life Member and Board of Trustee member George P. Moore Jr.

The loss of one member is difficult. To lose two pillars of our department on the same day is truly heartbreaking.

Greg's love for the fire service was evident in everything he did. He began his fire service journey at just 13 years old with Company 35, where he developed a lifelong passion for serving others. After a distinguished career with the Prince George's County Fire Department, retiring as a captain, Greg returned to his volunteer roots, once again proudly riding GVFD apparatus and serving alongside the members he considered family. His leadership, dedication and unwavering commitment to this department will leave a lasting legacy.

George dedicated his life to serving the residents of Greenbelt, beginning at the age of 16 and continuing until the time of his death. While his roles evolved over the years from operational to administrative, his heart never left the firehouse. He was always ready to lend a helping hand, offer a listening ear or share one of his unforgettable firehouse stories. George was also a driving force behind the restoration of GVFD's original pumper fire truck, a project that reflected his deep appreciation for the department's history and traditions. During the holiday season, many in the community would see him proudly behind the wheel of that

See **FIRE DEPT. LOSS**, page 6

Our Neighbors

All of Greenbelt is saddened to learn of the deaths on Friday, July 24 of two of Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department – Company 35's Life Members: President and Past Deputy Chief Greg Gigliotti and Board of Trustee member George P. Moore Jr. Our hearts are with the Greenbelt first responder community.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of Elizabeth Wellborn. As a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and long-time educator, she held a special place in her heart for children.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Mishkan Torah Celebrates High Holidays Services

Mishkan Torah will celebrate the following holidays in September.

- Rosh Hashanah on September 11 through 13.
- Yom Kippur on September 20 and 21.

Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road and can be reached at mishkantorah.org.

Vision for America
Collective Belonging
A Common Endeavor
Scan with cellphone camera to play on YouTube
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Core Values from Romans chapter 8.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org
Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
• Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
• Sunday Mass:
◦ Sat vigil 5pm*
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
• Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

JOIN MISHKAN TORAH FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS
5787/2026
Warm, welcoming, inclusive, and familial
Learn more and register by scanning the QR code or visiting MishkanTorah.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Français, s'il Vous Plaît Meets on Thursdays

For the months of July and August, the French conversation group that meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. will meet in Room 109 (Senior Activity Room) at the Community Center.

All ages and all levels of proficiency are welcome.

Spirit of '76: Greenbelt At the Bicentennial

An exhibit at the Greenbelt Museum, 10-B Crescent Road, looks back at the U.S.'s 200th birthday as the nation now celebrates the 250th. The free exhibit is open Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. through November 22.

Blood Drive Here August 21

The Red Cross will hold its next blood drive at the Community Center on Friday, August 21. Appointments for donations of whole blood are available from 12:15 to 4:15 p.m. at redcross.org.

Sunday Hikes At Greenbelt Park

On Sundays at 1 p.m., Hike with a Ranger at Greenbelt Park. The ranger leads a nature hike focused on the flora and fauna of Greenbelt Park. Meet at the Dogwood Trail parking lot. Visit nps.gov/gree/planyourvisit/calendar.htm for more information.

Spellman Overpass Resistance Fridays

Join the weekly protest on Spellman Overpass, Fridays (except in rain or wind) from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30-ish. Flags and big-letter messages are provided. To minimize driver distraction, extra signage is discouraged.

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR AUGUST 3 - 7

Thursday, July 30 at 11:30 am, **ETHICS COMMISSION - *Council Chambers***

Monday, August 3, **WORK SESSION - RECOGNITION GROUP POLICY REVIEW - *Council Chambers***

Tuesday, August 4 at 3 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES - *Public Works Buidling,*** *On the Agenda: Review past Meeting Minutes, Review Old Business, Discuss New Business*

Tuesday, August 4 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY (ACAPS) - *Virtual,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

Wednesday, August 5, **NO MEETING (ADVISORY BOARD/ COMMITTEE MEETINGS)**

Thursday, August 6 at 7 pm, **CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE - *Council Chambers,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

Thursday, August 6 at 7 pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING (BERWYN HEIGHTS)**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NO. 2134
LANHAM BOYS CLUB

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, a municipal corporation, has initiated legislative action to annex into the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt lands contiguous and adjoining to the city's existing corporate boundaries, as described below:

A Charter Amendment Resolution of the City Council of Greenbelt Enlarging the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Greenbelt By Annexing Into The Corporate Limits of the City of Greenbelt Lands Contiguous and Adjoining to the City's Existing Corporate Boundaries Property Commonly Known As Lanham Boys Club, Consisting Of Approximately 10 +/- Acres of Land In Total Located Generally at the Lanham Boys Club.

The annexation resolution was initiated by the City Council pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, Local Government Article, § 4-403.

The exact legal description and annexation plan for the above Annexation Area are available online at www.greenbeltmd.gov/news, or may be reviewed in person at the City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 200, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed annexation on **September 14, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.**, in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing.

Written comments may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in advance to the City Clerk, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4 from 6 - 8 pm
Beltway Plaza Mall, 6000 Greenbelt Road (Rear Parking Lot)
Lakeside North, 430 Ridge Road
Windsor Green, 7474 Frankfort Drive
Hunting Ridge, 6900 Hanover Parkway
Greenbriar Condominiums, 7716 & 7718 Hanover Parkway

Join the Greenbelt Police Department and Greenbelt Neighborhoods for the 2026 National Night Out. National Night Out is a cohesive effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and to send a message that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime.

Join us behind Beltway Plaza for a fun-filled evening! This is a great opportunity to meet your local officers. Enjoy food and refreshments, play games, and win prizes. There will be plenty of fun for everyone!

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

Material Drop-Off

We're looking for materials to add to the City's Welcome Kits for new residents and visitors. Please dropoff at the Municipal Building to

James Wisniewski
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

NO LATER THAN 4 PM ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

STRONGER MEMORY CLASSES
Tuesdays, July 7 through August 11, 1 - 2:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen memory, stay mentally active, and connect with others in the community.

FREE - Registration is required. Final call for registration is June 15. To register, contact Cesar Herrera at 202-891-8071.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR
Tuesday, August 18, 10 am - 1 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Meet organizations devoted to strengthening community connections - providing resources about health insurance, mental health services, and city educational programming. Free full health screenings (blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, A1C), vision + hearing screenings, dental screenings, fun activities and more!

GREENBELT STORYWALK COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY

In Collaboration with the Prince George's County Library System and the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) is gathering community feedback to help inform a recommendation to City Council about the future of the StoryWalk. Your responses are anonymous and will help us understand how the community values this resource.

https://forms.office.com/r/mLfbDhbkPA

UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS

Kayaking at Buddy Attick Park
Saturday, August 8 from 8 - 11:30 am
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Join Greenbelt Park Rangers and explore Greenbelt Lake by Kayak. Kayaks, vests, and paddles are provided at no cost, but supplies are limited. Participants are welcome to bring their own watercraft, vests, and paddles.

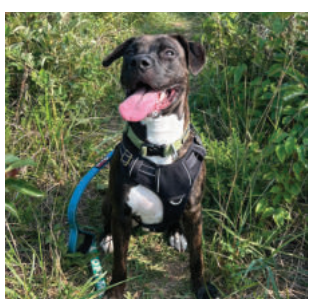
All kayaks have been reserved for this session, but park-goers with their own watercraft, paddles, and vests are welcome to join.

Walk with a Ranger
Saturday, August 15 from 10 am - 12 pm
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Join our Park Rangers for a guided walk around Buddy Attick Lake as we explore the fascinating world of the lake's animals. Rangers sharing tips on how to spot wildlife and understand their important role in the ecosystem. It's a great opportunity for all ages to enjoy the outdoors, learn something new, and experience the park from a fresh perspective.

FEATURED PETS

BLU



Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

11-month-old Blu was surrendered to the shelter back in March when his owner could no longer care for him. When he's not smothering you in affection, Blu loves to play with toys, go on walks, and learn new tricks. No puppy should have to grow up in the shelter – let's find Blu a home before his 1st birthday!

If you're interested in adopting bright-eyed Blu, please email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-474-6124 for more information.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

Camp Encore Performs Patroklos and Achilles 8/5 at 1pm and 8/6 at 7pm. In Homer's Illiad, the heroes Achilles and Patroklos, who were inseparable in life, are doomed to spend the afterlife apart. In this Camp Encore original, our heroes embark on new adventures in the Underworld, as they seek to break the curse and reunite. For FREE tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208. Seating is limited. Tickets available starting July 29.

August Artful Afternoons FREE art workshops for all ages! 8/2, 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) and 8/9, 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center.) Make your own cuddly sock monkey! All materials provided, but feel free to bring your own buttons, socks and more. Sign up and more information at sugeni.us/eyWh.

Both camp shows are FREE, but tickets are required. Visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208. Seating is limited.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

Registration required for these activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details

- **Fused Glass Jewelry** 7/26; 11am-12:30pm & 12:30pm-1:30pm Greenbelt Community Center (pg 22)
- **Make & Take Ceramics: Magical Miniatures** 8/9 - 8/16; 1-2:30pm (pg 23)
- **Senior Art Social:** Felting 8/16, 2-4pm (pg 32)

Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook and Twitter @cityofgreenbelt! For City information and events, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

In Memoriam

My Friend Greg Gigliotti

by Matthew Inzeo

When a community loses someone like Greg Gigliotti, it loses far more than a name. It loses a steady hand, a servant leader, a patriot and a friend whose life was measured not by what he accumulated, but by how much of himself he gave to others.

Greg believed in service. Whether he was leading the Greenbelt American Legion Post 136, honoring our veterans, supporting local families or simply offering a kind word to someone who needed encouragement, he made people feel seen and valued. His commitment to his fellow veterans and to the Greenbelt community was unwavering and his example inspired others to serve with the same humility and dedication.

Only months ago, Greg suffered the unimaginable loss of his beloved wife, Kathy. Through his own grief, he continued to lead with dignity, grace and devotion. That quiet strength revealed his true character.

Those fortunate enough to have known Greg will remember his warm smile, his integrity, his patriotism and the pride he took in serving his country and his community. He understood that true leadership is not about recognition — it is about showing up, keeping your word and leaving every place better than you found it.

His death leaves a profound emptiness, but his legacy will live on in the veterans he championed, the lives he touched and the community he helped strengthen. The measure of a life is found in the difference it makes in the lives of others, and by that measure, Greg Gigliotti lived an extraordinary one.

To Greg's family, friends and fellow Legion members, may you find comfort in knowing that his life mattered deeply, his service will not be forgotten and his memory will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Rest in peace, Greg. Thank you for your service, your friendship and your example. Greenbelt is a better place because you were here.

FIRE DEPT. LOSS continued from p. 4

beautifully restored apparatus as it carried Santa through the streets of Greenbelt, creating memories for generations of families.

Both Greg and George were longtime residents of the City of Greenbelt who devoted decades of selfless service to our community. Their impact on this department, our city and everyone who had the privilege of knowing them cannot be measured.

Keep the Gigliotti and Moore families, along with our members, in your thoughts and prayers during this incredibly difficult time.

Funeral and service information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Rest easy, brothers. Thank you for your decades of service, friendship and unwavering dedication.

Taken from the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Facebook page announcement.

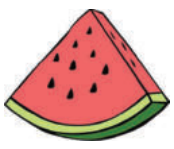
Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Canasta Group Meets Mondays

The Greenbelt Canasta Group meets on Mondays from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center Senior Game Room. Join in for casual and fun play. People of all levels are welcome to drop in to play. Check the Greenbelt Recreation Activity Guide for more information.



Council Updates from CARES, City Manager and Planning

by Matthew Arbach

During the July 15 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council was given an update on efforts from City Manager Josué Salmerón, the Department of Planning and Community Development, and Greenbelt CARES.

According to Salmerón, in six months, usage of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds bestowed upon the city will expire. Salmerón said that $200,000 remains which can be distributed internally to existing projects. He stated that an audit is expected.

Salmerón began the meeting by stating that the budget passed in May managed to be balanced and to close a $3M deficit with minimal disruption in services, an accomplishment that proves increasingly difficult.

Jessica Mailander, the city's new economic development manager, has begun implementing the economic development strategic plan.

The Save-As-You-Throw program continues, with feedback from the community informing any improvements that may need to be made.

Eight new EV Level 2 charging stations have been installed in the Library parking lot.

Demolition and construction will begin this later this year on the Greenbelt Museum's 10-A Crescent Road property, with funds being secured.

The city has received $87,000 in credits from Pepco, a result of overbilling. A new power contract is anticipated when energy prices return to a stable level.

Annexation

Annexation of Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) and NASA parcel 3 has been completed, with efforts ongoing to annex the Lanham Boy's Club, which borders Greenbelt, and BARC parcels 1 and 2.

$1M of additional work at Braden Fields remains and a state bond bill was secured for the new pavilions at Buddy Attick Park.

Salmerón said that the city's human resources department conducted comprehensive workplace safety initiatives and that the city has contracted with Chesapeake Worker's Compensation Insurance, replacing the previous vendor.

The IT department has shifted the city from Office 2019 to the Office 365 subscription-based platform. T-Mobile is being used for administrative and vehicle phones. A telematic vehicle-tracking system, which combines communications and informatics to track a vehicle's location, has been acquired.

The automated Stop Sign Enforcement Program has been implemented at six sites, with fees beginning in June. The vendor said to expect a 60 percent drop in citations after a nine-month period.

Planning Department

Acting Director Jaime Fearer, Community Planner Ryan Sigworth, Assistant Director of Community Development Gilberto Cabrera and Community Development Inspector Michael Day were present for Planning and Community Development.

Fearer stated the department's focus is on the health, safety, welfare and integrity of the city's properties and infrastructure, alongside fair, consistent and effective code enforcement.

Sigworth said the ARPA Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan has achieved a completed traffic study, 100 percent design and engineering for the Hanover Parkway sidewalk gap and a paved shared-use path between Schrom Hills Park and Greenbrook Drive. Public Works has installed three sets of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon crosswalk signage, six

See **COUNCIL**, page 11

New Deal Café Is Temporarily Closed

PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

A sign on the door of the New Deal Café on Sunday, July 26

The New Deal Café has a sign on its door announcing its temporary closure. Its website reports that it is open for select performances and events only from July 25 to August 7 and that the Café is working with performers and volunteers to finalize the schedule for the next few weeks.

"Our goal is to preserve as many performance events as possible, but that decision will incorporate the input of performers, our music coordinator, our pace at restoring food and beverage service and the ability of the board and volunteers to support the event. In addition, we have to ensure compliance with any applicable regulations," reads the website update.

Greenbelt News Review
An independent Newspaper
Every Story Tells a Picture
Take event photos for us.
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

ADOPT US!!
Greenbelt TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) has 2 of the 26 kittens in their care ready for adoption. Lisa and Wendy are 5 months old. These sweet girls are bonded and ideally should be adopted as a pair.
Contact "greenbelt.tnr@gamil.com" for more information.

PUBLIC POLICY VOLUNTEERS
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
LEGACY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The University of Maryland's Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy, in partnership with the State of Maryland, is looking for volunteers age 50+ to serve as volunteer legislative leaders during the 2026-2027 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The twelve-week classroom training (two days per week) begins on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, and ends on Wednesday, December 2, 2026.

Classes will be held at the University of Maryland Extension, 8930 Stanford Blvd, Suite 25, Columbia, Md., 21045. The volunteer assignment will be in the legislative offices of members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

Participants will serve a minimum of two (2) days per week starting Wednesday, January 13, 2027, and ending Monday, April 12, 2027.

For more information or for an application, contact Wesley Queen at wqueen@umd.edu.

Labor Day Festival Launches New Online Ticketing System

by Anne Gardner

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee is excited to announce a new online ticketing system designed to make attending this year's event easier, faster and more convenient for festivalgoers.

Through carnival operator Snyder's Attractions, guests will be able to purchase wristbands with all-you-can-ride options or various numbers of credits before arriving at the Festival. The new system allows attendees to securely buy tickets from any computer, tablet or smartphone, eliminating the need to wait in long ticket lines on event days.

Even the discount ticket vouchers, typically available at Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket a few weeks before the Festival, are now online. "Festivalgoers don't have to race to purchase those discount ticket vouchers before the deadline," says Karen Yoho, Greenbelt Labor Day Festival president. "Now with a few clicks, families can buy four-hour passes and all-day passes online at a discount before 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 3."

Another unique feature of the online ticketing is that the timed passes are not restricted to particular days or hours of the Festival. Yoho explains, "Whenever you decide to start riding rides, with a four-hour wristband the four-hour time period begins with the first ride. So riders can choose morning, afternoon or evening to use their four-hour wristband, or select a full-day wristband and ride all day." Riders can buy multiple four-hour or all-day wristbands to use on different days.

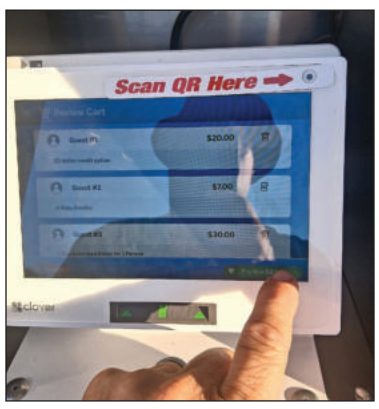
Those making advance online wristband purchases will pick up their wristbands from the machines at the Festival using a code. At those same machines, festivalgoers can purchase new wristbands and add credits to existing wristbands. The machines will accept cash and credit/debit cards for payment. No paper tickets are dispensed; everything is on wristbands.

The 72nd Annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival will feature popular rides, games, food vendors, live entertainment and family-friendly activities. The committee expects the online ticketing system to help streamline operations while enhancing the overall guest experience.

Scan this QR code to buy carnival tickets. Advance sale discounts end September 3.

Festivalgoers will have a wristband for the rides.

- Photos courtesy Snyder's Attractions



The new electronic ticketing system will allow festivalgoers to add credit to their wristbands electronically.

The online ticketing platform is now open at bit.ly/GLDFtickets. For more information about the Festival, visit greenbeltlaborday.com.

Community Orchestra Seeks Percussionists

Greenbelt Community Orchestra is seeking percussionists to play Holst's Planets Suite this fall, with concerts on November 14 and 15 at the Community Center. More double bass and French horn players are also needed.

The orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.

Advertise here and read about YOU. Not us! $23 and up
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

OUTSTANDING continued from page 1

to do it to join him, without first organizing a series of meetings to plan it or applying for grants, may be a new concept to some. "It doesn't cost money," Goldberg-Strassler says. "If you check every program I've done, everything is free. I give out free books to promote or uplift literacy, healthy food, snacks."

Help for the Homeless

His philosophy is simple: "I have enough and people have needs. I go out into the woods and help the homeless." Because of the plogging article, the 30 people who responded found it easier to take action and didn't have to feel like they were doing it alone.

Another RUAK initiative that has grown steadily is Goldberg-Strassler's pre-K literacy program, where children choose free books and healthy snacks while parents read with them. At last month's event, 54 children attended, a remarkable cross-section of Greenbelt's diversity all gathered around reading. "If you saw the diversity of children picking up books and snacks, the parents reading to the children, that's transformative. That's why kindness is a verb," he says. For him, literacy is another form of kindness: giving families what they need to grow, learn and feel connected.

A Plug for Plogging

It took Goldberg-Strassler putting himself out there for plogging to get it going in Greenbelt. But when he learned he would be announced as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen last year, he nearly didn't attend the ceremony. His daughter and grandchildren coaxed him to the Labor Day Festival that afternoon. "Otherwise, you know I have other things to do," he says. This is because Robert is an introvert, "a recluse," as he calls it. Even so, he hasn't let this stop him from connecting to others and making a difference. For two months of every year for the last 15 he has baked for a program dedicated to a 23-year-old he'd known since birth who died from anorexia. "Her parents started a scholarship. I started an annual fundraiser and we gave out 12 scholarships."

For more than 40 years, he has quietly woven a network of kindness throughout Greenbelt. His decades of experience have made him a kind of informal guide for residents navigating services and support. People who don't know how to begin the search, know to contact Robert. He's the 411. "That's a little bit of why I was invited to become a member of the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA). Just through my life experiences and Judy's [his spouse], I know where the resources are. I know who provides the services. I know what the programs are. It's real-time stuff and people need real-time. I just have that sort of network."

On the Payroll

Since Goldberg-Strassler received the award last year, that network and its influence have widened. The Greenbelt Porch Project doubled in the neighborhoods it serves. The need is when you see people struggling. Donations of food and essential items nearly doubled. Five or six new neighborhood coordinators stepped forward. People who had never donated before began showing up with bags of groceries, hygiene kits and supplies for families in crisis, "helping people who have lost their jobs, donating food to people who need it. The timing of that couldn't be more important," he says.

"I've got two new programs I'm doing with birthday boxes for homeless children," he says. "Someone told somebody about what they heard at the ceremony about the things I do. This lady called me and met me in a parking lot. She had 50 full bags for homeless people of toiletries, underwear, socks and dental hygiene. She goes, 'I know you'll get it to the people.' And the timing couldn't have been better because it happened a week before the camp [run by the Community

See **OUTSTANDING**, page 9

Last Call: August 1 deadline
2026 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination

Submit your nomination by **August 1** to
Tom Jones
Outstanding Citizen Committee
1 Woodland Way Unit C, Greenbelt MD 20770
or **OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com**

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement describing why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen.

You can include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. Note this award is for unpaid volunteer work only.

Others' testimonials or supporting material, are useful but not required.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **August 1 deadline.**

Nominated by:
Name(s) Signature(s) Telephone

We need your input—thank you!

Featured Greenbelt Listing
8419 Greenbelt Road
Unit: 101

2-Bed | 1-Bath | $170,000
The community pool is OPEN! If Chelsea Woods wasn't on your radar before, it's time to add it.

Just a block away from NASA, this condo development is shaded with mature trees and has its own private tennis courts and pool--within view from the balcony of this ready-to-go unit. Recent community-wide upgrades make this one worth checking out!

Kim Kash &
Andrew Nugent
kim.kash@compass.com
m: 301.789.6294
andrew.nugent@compass.com
m: (301) 814-8010

660 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 401 Washington DC 20003
O: 202.545.6900

COMPASS

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CALL US AT 301-474-4144

GHI continued from page 1

store had reached out to GHI as a fellow cooperative suggesting that GHI buy the building and become the new landlord, allowing the Co-op to invest in renovations and modernization of the grocery store. At the annual meeting, the GHI membership authorized its board to expend $30,000 to investigate the legal and financial issues surrounding the purchase of the building.

Results of Due Diligence

The meeting on July 23 featured a presentation by the Property Purchase Task Force on the results of those investigations and financial projections of various scenarios should GHI — or its wholly owned subsidiary, Greenbelt Development Corporation (GDC), which manages the Parkway Apartments — purchase the building.

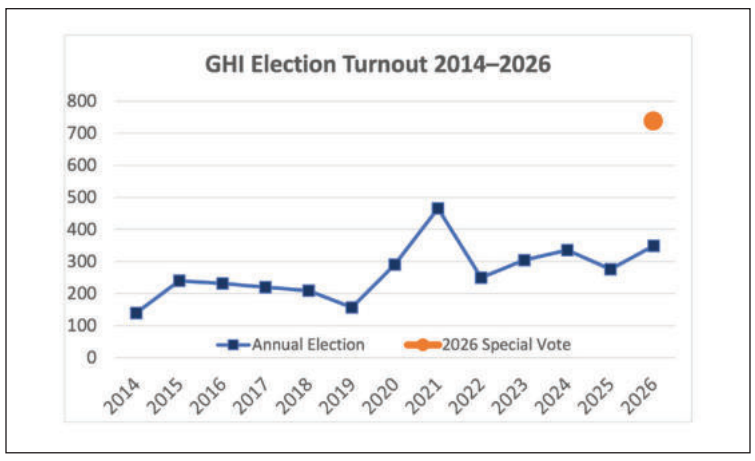
A crowd of around 250 members packed the Youth Center and many more listened in via Zoom. The original Zoom capacity was quickly reached; staff were able to add more so all who chose to listen in could.

Carl Sanders, chair of the Task Force, made the presentation of the information gathered to date along with projected scenarios should GHI buy the building. An engineering firm had conducted an inspection of the building's condition and delivered results and expected cost projections. Most systems — foundation, framing, exterior walls, electrical — were noted to be in good condition. HVAC, plumbing (particularly the lower-level pipes) and fire systems need attention, with immediate repair costs estimated at just under $22,000. He also provided details about expected ownership costs, the greatest of which, approximately $200,000, are for finding a tenant for the currently vacant lower-level space and getting that space ready for occupancy.

Sanders stressed that this is a long-term investment, with the risks involved in any commercial real estate deal. He outlined two scenarios ("good" with Co-op renewing its lease when it expires in 2037 and "bad" when GHI has to find a new tenant and the space is vacant for an extended period). In each of these, the provision projection is that the mortgage is paid off by year 30 and the positive cash flow puts downward pressure on member fees.

Member Concerns

Members had many questions following the presentation. Many wanted more information on the state of Co-op finances and their viability as a tenant. Other concerns were raised about the building condition — how accurate were the estimates for repairs? How difficult and expensive would it be to find a tenant for the lower level? Would this purchase make GHI members' monthly fees rise? What about the Greenbelt Arts Center?



GRAPHIC BY NEWS REVIEW

The number of GHI members who voted on the proposed purchase was half again the highest number who had voted in any election at least since 2014. They gave the GHI Board the authority to investigate and proceed with the purchase of the 121 Centerway building.

Sanders and GHI President Stefan Brodd responded to the various concerns with reference to the presentation, written copies of which were available to all members. Brodd stressed that the GHI Board had taken no position but was providing the members with the information obtained through the due diligence undertaken in response to the vote the members took at the May 14 meeting.

Other members pointed out that information about the Co-op was available at the Co-op's annual meeting, the May 14 GHI annual meeting and the Co-op's monthly membership meetings. One noted that the Co-op has never missed a rent payment to its current landlord.

Debate on the Resolution

Debate on the actual resolution focused more on strategic considerations than financial minutiae. Both life-long members of 70 or more years and more recent arrivals spoke of the value of having a grocery store in the center of town, within walking distance for many, and as anchor to Roosevelt Center. Many found the process challenging and frustrating, but recognized that the board needed flexibility for negotiating and that decisions sometimes must be made without having all the information desired.

Ringing endorsements of the purchase came from multiple members, calling it in the best interest of all, now and for the future. They looked to the long-term benefit for themselves as GHI members and Greenbelt residents and for the community as a whole, with the Co-op being "the heart and soul" of Roosevelt Center, with its future and the Center's intertwined. One member noted that when GHI was founded as a cooperative, buying their homes from the federal government, it was a radical idea and the founders did not have all the information about how it would work. But they had the vision to do something different and made things better for future generations.

The debate ended with sustained applause for those speaking in favor of the purchase. Voting began when the meeting recessed at approximately 10:30 p.m., and continued through 8 p.m. Friday, July 24. The enormous voter turnout and positive results were announced by 8:37 p.m. that night.

GHI posted a video of the entire July 23 meeting (2 hours, 57 minutes), with the presentation and original meeting notice at ghi.coop/special-meeting.

BRIGGS continued from page 1

follow-up question asking about the discrepancy.

Under the Prince George's County section of the Maryland Education Code, if an elected seat becomes vacant the county executive appoints a replacement to serve the remainder of the term (Md. Education Code § 3-1002 (2025)). That appointment is then transmitted to the county council. The council has no confirmation vote. If they do nothing, the appointment will be considered approved. However, they do have a disapproval mechanism and can block the appointment with a two-thirds vote of all members within 45 days.

So far there's no indication the county advertised the call for applications in any way besides a single website post on the county executive page. PGCPS only communicated the resignation and vacancy to residents and area principals and released a press release last week, following inquiries from the News Review, almost two weeks after the application window closed.

No Answers

The News Review asked County Executive Aisha Braveboy's office how the vacancy was advertised, how many candidates applied, the anticipated timeline for a decision and any opportunity for community input. On July 20, the County Executive's Director of Communications Thomas F. Johnson II added Chief Communications Officer for Prince George's County Brian Fischer to the email chain with our questions "for awareness," and on July 28 Fischer acknowledged the inquiry in an email, writing that he would "send it along to get information needed to respond." At press time the office had not provided answers to any of the questions, which were sent on July 20 and again on July 23 and July 28.

Current Candidates

As reported last week, one of the candidates for the seat in November's election, Terence Clegg, applied for the interim position. Clegg said he was aware of the vacancy due to the posting on the webpage for the county executive, which is dated June 30. Commenting online on the News Review's reporting of the vacancy last week, Clegg said he submitted his application materials on July 2, while on a family vacation.

Meanwhile, candidate Caroline Decaire-Goldin told the News Review she did not apply for the position. She said the community was not given appropriate notice and believes an active candidate shouldn't be considered for the interim role "to protect the integrity of the upcoming election, with voters deciding this seat in just three months."

"The process to appoint an interim District 2 Board Member should trouble every PGCPS community member, not just those of us in District 2," said Decaire-Goldin in a statement released last week. As the News Review reported last week, the vacancy was not announced by PGCPS until a meeting on July 9, after the application window closed on July 7. "When something this consequential is quietly decided just three months before the general election, it reinforces the frustrations I have heard from numerous District 2 stakeholders," said Decaire-Goldin, adding "Voters should ask who a process like this is designed to serve."

The timeline and reason for Briggs' resignation is still unclear, with PGCPS announcing he resigned June 30 while the county executive's application announcement is itself dated June 30 and says he resigned June 26.

Decaire-Goldin along with others, including Greenbelt City Councilmember Jenni Pompi, have called on the community to contact the county executive's office to request the application window be reopened and that any appointment not provide an advantage to current candidates

See **BRIGGS**, page 11

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred July 20 - 26, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death and three domestic incidents, two resulting in arrest. On July 25 two infants were left alone in a vehicle but officers arrived and ensured they were safe. On July 25, a concerned parent thought his son might have been involved in an auto theft, but no crime was identified, and the parent was advised about options for the son.

Chased

On July 21 at 2:08 p.m., near 6221 Springhill Court, a man was chased on foot by a group of men. No property or money was demanded nor was a weapon displayed.

DUI Arrests

On July 22 at 3:01 a.m., near 6320 Golden Triangle Drive, an officer saw a vehicle run a red light and speed into a parking lot. The driver tried to hide but was arrested for DUI.

On July 25 at 1:42 a.m., near Greenbelt Road and Mandan Road, officers saw a vehicle driving in an unsafe manner. The driver consented to sobriety testing and was arrested.

On July 26 at 5:09 p.m., near Greenbelt Road and Frankfort Drive, officers witnessed a vehicle swerving in and out of the traffic lanes, and the driver was arrested for DUI.

Theft and Shoplifting

On July 20 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifting incident occurred; at 12:56 p.m., near 6114 Breezewood Court, pest control came to a residence, and a wallet was taken; at 4:32 p.m., near 7573 Greenbelt Road, a former employee entered a store and stole merchandise.

On July 21 at 2:56 p.m., near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a known individual was seen stealing merchandise.

On July 22 at 2:13 p.m., near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a store reported a theft; the suspect was identified.

On July 23 at 4:34 p.m., near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole items and was apprehended; all merchandise was recovered, and she was banned from the property.

On July 25 at 12:19 p.m., near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman tried to leave the store without paying for merchandise; at 2:23 p.m., near 6098 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole merchandise.

On July 26 at 5:08 p.m., near 8007 Mandan Road, someone tried to steal a bike, leaving it damaged.

Vandalism

On July 21 near 46 Lakeside Drive, a sunroom window was vandalized by a rock.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

On July 24 near 5921 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2024 blue Honda Civic (Md. 8GX6563) was stolen.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On July 20 near 9009 Breezewood Terrace, a Chrysler 300 was found with no license plates attached; a VIN check revealed the vehicle was stolen.

On July 21 near 7025 Megan Lane, the owner used a tracking device to locate a 2025 Honda Civic stolen from Montgomery County and officers recovered it.

On July 26 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a 2022 Toyota Highlander was stolen and later recovered by Maryland State Police.

Suspicious Vehicle

On July 26 near 7825 Mandan Road, a vehicle was parked in someone's assigned space, and the tag did not match the registration. The tag was confiscated, and towing was notified.

Attempted Theft of Auto

On July 26 near 5925 Cherrywood Terrace, a Hyundai Elantra had a damaged door handle.

Theft From Auto

All four wheels and tires were stolen from seven vehicles: on July 20, near 7830 Hanover Parkway from a 2026 Toyota Corolla, and near 7730 Hanover Parkway from a 2024 Toyota RAV-4; on July 22 near 5911 Cherrywood Terrace from a 2026 Honda CR-V; on July 23 near 18 Crescent Road from a vehicle with smashed windows; near 7 Court Southway from a Toyota Corolla; and near 18 Crescent Road from a Toyota Camry with the windows broken; and on July 26 near 5912 Cherrywood Terrace from a 2026 Hyundai Kona.

Tags were stolen from four vehicles: on July 20 near 6900 Greenbelt Road, Md. 4DE6354 (front); on July 21 near 7830 Hanover Parkway, Md. 1DR8529 (rear), and near 7242 S. Ora Court, Md: 2DR7601 (front); and on July 25 near 6230 Springhill Drive.

On July 20 near 7712 Hanover Parkway, a 2018 Ford Explorer was broken into and items stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On July 22 near 6204 Breezewood Drive, a 2018 Honda Accord had windows broken and damage to the exterior.

On July 23 near Southway and Ridge Road, windows were broken on a Honda Civic.

On July 26 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, after a man honked the horn for two men to move out of the street, they became angry and started kicking the hood of his vehicle, leaving a dent.

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OUTSTANDING continued from page 7

Crisis Services of Prince George's County] in January." Goldberg-Strassler was able to get them the supplies in time. Moments like this show how quickly kindness moves when people know where to turn.

"I am willing to share the information that I have to help improve life in Greenbelt," he says. On receiving the award, there was an influx of "people becoming aware of how connected I am to programs and service and how to solve problems." Rather than being overwhelming "it highlights the need out there."

A New Form

There does not seem to be a limit to what form kindness can take. He invited the police chief, crisis intervention director and the director of Greenbelt CARES to present at each of the GILA meetings in the summer, "to tell faith leaders what services and programs exist and communicate those to their congregations and communities. These are the services and programs Greenbelt residents have access to," he says.

What's next? "I'm going to start giving out microgrants to any group in Greenbelt that wants to start conversations and community gatherings all over Greenbelt. The program will be called Greenbelt WON (Greenbelt With Our Neighbors). It will be inspiring civic life."

Someone who wants to do anything to bring people together, such as host a block party, can receive $50 or $75 to get started. Goldberg-Strassler also knows whom to call if you want the city to set up benches for that block party and take them away the next day and do it for free, he says. "If you call the Greenbelt Public Works or the Constituent Services Coordinator [Gizelle Alvarez] and say I need five picnic tables on such and such a day, they'll bring them to you," he says.

One Person's Initiative

Goldberg-Strassler's story shows how one person's quiet initiative can ripple across an entire city. If someone you know takes the initiative to serve others in a spirit of kindness and cooperation, especially someone whose efforts help residents across the city, don't hesitate to nominate them.

You can use the nomination form on page 7 of this issue or send a letter or e-mail, no later than Saturday, August 1 with your name, your nominee's name and why you're nominating them to Outstanding Citizen Committee, c/o Tom Jones, 1 Woodland Way Unit C, Greenbelt MD 20770 or OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com.

MAYOR continued from page 1

one of his highest achievements. "Green Ridge House is a model for the state, and I feel real good about it," he affirms.

He lost only one battle, he says, while on the city council, and that was the first referendum in the 1970s, on construction of the indoor swimming pool. Two decades later, the indoor pool is a reality in which he feels enormous pride.

Center School Controversy

The biggest controversy during his tenure in office was the renovation of Center School as opposed to building a new school in the north end of town. "This issue caused splits in families and differences between friends," he says. "It was one of those issues where no one was right or wrong, but rather it was which decision served the community's interest more," he reflected. In the end, the community voted to build a new school and turn Center School into a community center. Weidenfeld regrets that he is no longer on the city council, as it shaped the final conversion of Center School into a community center.

He is proud of his role in renovating Roosevelt Center and building the new police station. He enjoyed the projects associated with the city's celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1987, which he describes as a high point.

Weidenfeld praises the work of the city councils over the years. He views the former councils as generally harmonious, reflecting the continuity that prevailed from year to year. With never more than one new council member elected at any particular time, that new person generally went along with the prevailing positions, he said.

He describes the personality differences and divergent viewpoints as healthy. "Some issues get personal, but over the years most city councils worked well." He states that after the final vote, the dissenting council members usually came together to support the decisions of the majority.

Weidenfeld would like to see more involvement in city issues by Greenbelt East and Springhill Lake residents. He thinks the new community center and the indoor pool will draw these diverse communities together. "I want to bring others into the city. I want them to feel enthusiastic to serve on advisory boards and community organizations."

Greenbelt Is Great

"We have a caring community and a high level of service," he continues. "I haven't found any place as great as Greenbelt. Even people you disagree with on issues do so out of strong feelings of service to the community," he adds.

From caring about one part of town having its own recreation center, he has moved toward a view of the city not unlike that of its creator, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In 1936 Roosevelt said, "I have seen the blueprints for this project and have been greatly interested, but the actual sight itself exceeds anything I ever dreamed of."

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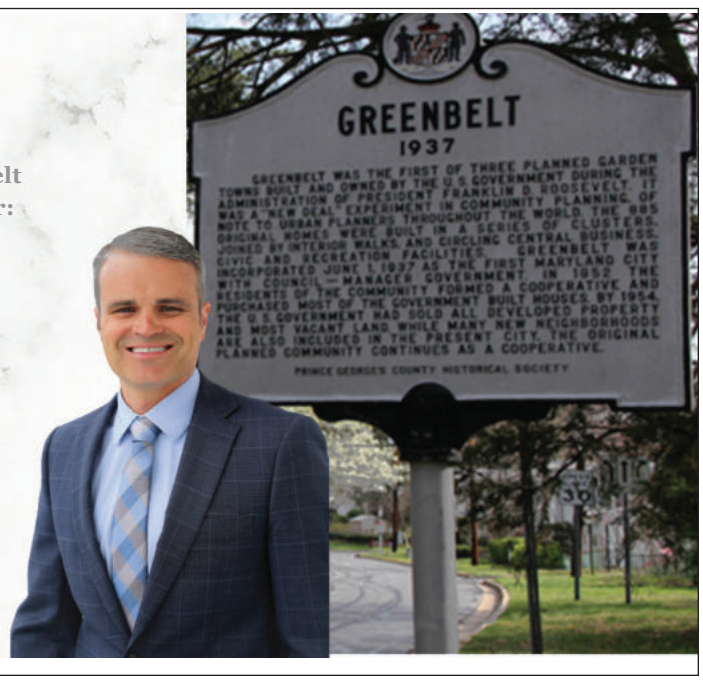

COUNCIL continued from page 6

sets of LED crosswalk signage and four sets of LED stop signs. Ridge Road has seen improved curb ramps and segments and new crosswalk connections at five locations. Sharrows (shared lane markings) are planned at eight corridors.

Regarding bus stop safety and accessibility, 29 concrete pads have been installed alongside six new bus shelters.

The ARPA-funded Stormwater Drainage Study remains in progress.

The Hanover Parkway Shared Use Path will likely see construction in 2027 with a search in January or February for funds to finance the final 10 percent of the design.

The Historic Greenbelt Cemetery Master Plan continues to be developed, with a final draft expected soon.

The Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan has been finalized, with an option for execution in phases.

Progress on the Greenbelt Station/WMATA trail is moving forward slowly with plan approval pending from the State Highway Administration.

The Indian Creek Park Conceptual Master Plan awaits further review by council and the county's Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, with stormwater mitigation a county concern.

According to Salmerón in a subsequent interview, a $3M project for the expansion and renovation of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center is proposed to be funded by $2.7M from Maryland Program Open Space (for which the county has given preliminary approval), a $250,000 federal earmark and a $50,000 direct city match.

A county-run outpatient medical facility on Edmonston Road is under construction. The demolition and new construction for Springhill Lake Elementary School is progressing.

Code Enforcement

Cabrera and Day discussed code enforcement. Fire protection, safety, and remediation of pests and infrastructure hazards of residential and commercial property remain their mandate. Day said that proper placement of smoke alarms can result in a 60 percent drop in death rates. There has been a reduced number of complaints and citations, said Cabrera.

Code Enforcement has partnered with the Greenbelt Police Department and CARES to enhance the scope and effectiveness of its operations.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney expressed concern over walker safety in the coming school year at the former Dora Kennedy French Immersion School, which now will serve the students of Springhill Lake Elementary School. Many ideas were proposed, such as parent walk-throughs and walking the bus stops.

Social Services

CARES ended the meeting, represented by Director Liz Park, Assistant Director Christal Batey and Education and Workforce Development Coordinator Deji Ayoku. CARES retains its three anchor programs: Youth and Family Services, education and workforce development, and Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL), led by Batey.

Youth and Family Services focuses on mental health, mainly through counseling, school-requested substance abuse assessments and crisis support services. CARES partners with the Greenbelt Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team, offering additional clinical services when needed.

Education and workforce development provides GED classes, ESOL classes and job-related training, like resumé writing and interview assistance.

GAIL provides food (primarily from the Capital Area Food Bank) and diaper distribution, senior health screenings, and a robust nursing program to seniors, mainly through nursing student interns from local universities. The nursing program has expanded from just Green Ridge House to the greater city community and is vital for many to age in place. GAIL also helps connect residents to programs to equip homes to support aging in place. Most of these services are free for Greenbelt residents.

Park said that CARES also still offers renter's tax credits, Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA)-funded eviction relief (in cases where the following month is guaranteed), and legal referrals, in some cases.

Council was deeply appreciative of all these efforts, citing their transformative effect on the lives of residents.

BRIGGS continued from page 8

for the seat.

2025 Precedent

The county saw a similar appointment process for a school board member in 2025. At that time, then-Board of Education Member Shayla Adams-Stafford had announced her resignation and intention to run for county council in mid-December 2024. An application period was opened to fill her seat on January 9, 2025 (according to a report shared at the April 22, 2025, county council meeting). That timeline meant approximately three weeks between Adams-Stafford's resignation announcement and the opening of the application to fill her seat, compared to four days in the case of Briggs' (using the earliest of the conflicting dates of his resignation). The window for applications for the 2025 school board vacancy was January 9 to January 23 — twice the length of the window for applications following Briggs' resignation. The 2025 call for applications was also advertised by the county executive's office, including on social media posts.

Prior Process

The previous process, as reported at the April 22, 2025, county council meeting, which included a public hearing on appointee Aimee Olivo, was said to have yielded 27 applications. Of those applications, 13 were rejected for residency reasons. Fourteen candidates were invited to interview, 12 actually interviewed and interviews were conducted by a panel of three persons over three days. The top two were then brought back for a further two-panel interview. Speaking at that council meeting, Olivo said she had gone through "a very thorough process" that included three interviews with six individuals.

This is a developing story. The News Review has submitted public information requests for records relating to Briggs' resignation and the application process to fill his seat.

Used Books Sought For PTA's Book Sale

It's that time of year again. Declutter your space and support a local elementary school. For those whose bookshelves are overflowing, the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA will be collecting used books to sell at the annual Labor Day Festival used book sale.

The PTA will accept book and media donations in Old Greenbelt on Saturdays, August 15 and 29 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., specific location to be announced in August. All books will be accepted (except manuals, encyclopedias and dictionaries), as well as CDs, DVDs, records, puzzles and games. For more information, email booksalegespta@gmail.com or visit sites.google.com/view/gespta/events/labor-day-book-sale.

PHOTO BY CALEB KRIESBERG

A gray tree frog, Hyla versicolor, rides out a storm at the end of May, inside a Lakeside North apartment building.

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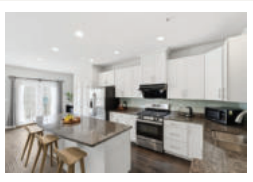

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WSSC Says Lead Samples at Greenbelt Standpipe Are Below Federal Benchmarks

by Hannah Frasure

Air and soil samples taken at the Greenbelt standpipe rehabilitation project have not exceeded federal safety standards for lead concentrations, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) told the public at a virtual public meeting on July 14.

Washington-based Soil and Land Use Technology, Inc. (SALUT) performed the sampling for WSSC's construction contractor, Baltimore-based Titan Industrial Services, Inc. SALUT then sent the samples to separate laboratory testing companies based in Maryland and Virginia for analysis. All samples were taken from within, or at, the site's perimeter.

PHOTO BY DERMOT KELLY

The standpipe seen from Lastner Lane on Tuesday, July 21

Air Quality

According to WSSC, the average airborne lead concentration at the standpipe during the recent paint removal process was less than 0.01 micrograms per cubic meter, which is far lower than both short-term and long-term federal benchmarks for airborne lead exposure cited by a WSSC consultant.

Rosalind Schoof, a toxicologist with the Ramboll Group hired by WSSC to explain the monitoring, said OSHA's lead standards provided a benchmark for short-term lead exposure, while the EPA's standards were a benchmark for longer-term.

"Neither EPA nor the Centers for Disease Control have a short-term lead standard, like an eight-hour standard," said Schoof, as the air samples were taken over the course of eight-hour workdays. "So what I did was I looked at the maximum concentrations from the eight-hour averages, and compared them with some of the [OSHA] standards, and they're still below those standards."

The EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standard for lead is 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter, while under OSHA, workers cannot be exposed to more than 50 micrograms per cubic meter.

WSSC Water Project Manager Christopher DeHerde had also stated that air monitoring is conducted continuously while the blasting is occurring and if lead levels exceed what is "allowable," then the hygienists monitoring the project will issue a stop-work order to Titan employees.

Air monitors are stationed around the perimeter of the site, DeHerde said, in addition to those worn by the workers on site and a device that collects samples from the exhaust of the abrasive blasting equipment.

DeHerde stated that at the end of the month, WSSC would share the air monitoring samples which were taken from the first phase of abrasive blasting.

Soil Monitoring

At the meeting, Schoof discussed the results of the soil monitoring. Of six samples taken at the site in April, the highest lead concentration (130 milligrams per kilogram) found in the soil was still below EPA's recommended safe lead level (220 milligrams per kilogram).

Schoof also explained that the levels in the samples are consistent with what she expected, given what is typical per U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department data for residential areas with homes built in the 1960s.

PHOTO COURTESY WSSC

WSSC air monitoring device

Greenbelt resident Kelly Brower asked whether individuals needed to test their own soil and whether it is safe to eat vegetables harvested from home gardens.

Schoof responded that while homegrown produce is not a major source of lead exposure, dust from the construction site can settle on outdoor gardens so she recommended washing any homegrown produce if one's property borders the facility.

Although WSSC officials described the April soil samples as predating blasting, official project documents from WSSC's website note that the samples were collected April 7, when abrasive blasting was underway according to News Review reporting and a WSSC notice dated April 14.

However, the project documents SALUT provided to Titan also describe the soil samples as having been taken "prior to start to [sic] lead work" and further state that "[n]o lead-related work was conducted" in April 2026.

DeHerde clarified to the News Review that the soil samples were collected when interior blasting was ongoing. Prior to April 7, there had been no exterior blasting, so the presentation was referring to soil samples collected at a time when, he believed, the debris did not contain lead.

WSSC external communications manager Lyn Riggins confirmed DeHerde's statement and added that interior blasting specifically started on March 19.

"WSSC Water voluntarily conducts soil sampling as an added measure to help protect public health and provide additional transparency to the community," Riggins told the News Review.

Andy McAllister, a vice president at SALUT, also confirmed WSSC's timeline with the News Review.

DeHerde stated that when the abrasive blasting and coating work is finished, a second set of soil samples will be taken.

Next Round

WSSC does not yet have a start date for the next round of abrasive blasting; it could begin in either August or September and take two weeks to one month.

DeHerde explained that one reason the timeline was pushed back (the current timeline on the project's website shows a containment system was to be erected by spring) was partially because of Titan's decision to use a different kind of abrasive blaster, the FasterBlaster, to minimize noise.

The FasterBlaster, which Titan began to use in mid-April, according to a WSSC notice from April 14, is a self-contained abrasive blasting system that has a vacuum seal to suck in debris; so unlike other abrasive blasters, it does not require a containment system below.

When Greenbelt residents living near the project inquired about whether sound panels would be installed during the next round of blasting, WSSC project outreach manager Joy Hamilton stated that the inquiry would be referred back to WSSC "leadership."

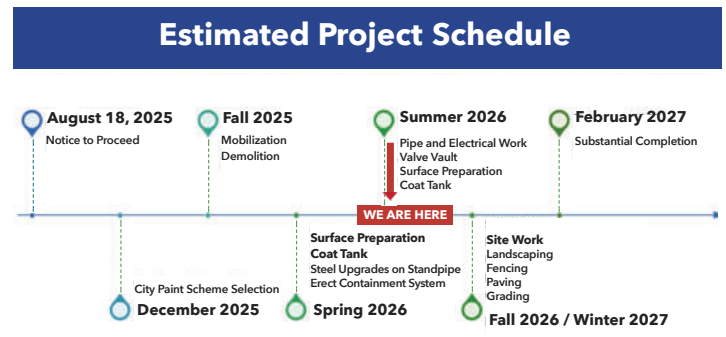
However, Theon Grojean, a WSSC division manager who was present, denied that WSSC had any responsibility to put up panels.

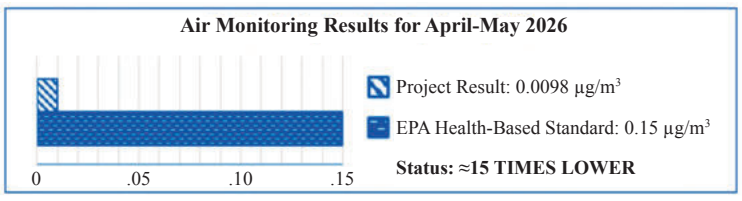
"Our leverage to require the contractor to take additional steps on sound mitigation, if they are adhering to the requirements of the contract ... we really don't have a leg to [stand on to require them to] do more," Grojean said.

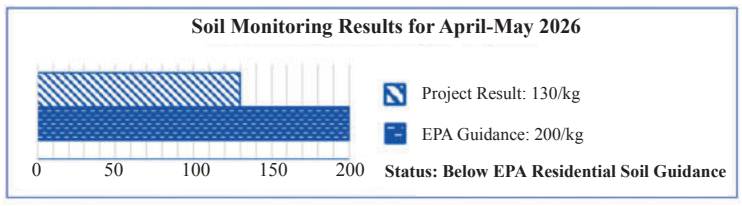
However, Hamilton stated that WSSC would commit to notifying residents a week prior to when blasting would occur via posting notices to the website.

Greenbelt resident Kemari Legg, who lives near the site, told the paper that while he appreciated the update on WSSC's environmental monitoring, he wished that WSSC would contact affected residents directly about when blasting would occur.

WSSC still slates the project's completion for February 2027.







Housing and Urban Development Surveys

Mean Soil and Mean Bare Soil Lead Concentrations (mg/kg) by Various Housing Characteristics (AHHS II in Red)

Characteristic	*All Soil* *Mean*	*All Soil* *Upper 95% CI*	*Bare Soil* *Mean*	*Bare Soil* *Upper 95% CI*	*Houses in Sample (All/Bare)*
Region by Construction Year:					
Built 1978-2005	**55**	115	97	246	34/14
Built 1978-2017	**47**	73	33	52	28/18
Built 1960-1977	**150**	286	161	322	41/19
	49	74	62	103	20/10
Built 1940-1959	**251**	410	285	525	26/17
	127	193	125	189	20/13
Built before 1940	**797**	1114	730	1116	50/33
	524	807	624	965	36/17

Surveys in 2012 (black) and 2021 (red) show the influence of lead paint on residential soil concentrations.

- Standpipe charts courtesy WSSC

Greenbelters Travel

PHOTO BY DAN BYRD

Longtime Greenbelt resident Stephanie Warmber is traveling in Poland and stopped in the port city of Gdansk to read the News Review.

PHOTO COURTESY LESLEY KASH

Lesley Kash and the News Review at the Alex Pretti memorial site in Minneapolis